

# COURSE SYLLABUS

LAW 515 – INTRO TO LEGAL PROFESSIONALISM I

FALL SEMESTER 2023

THURSDAYS, 2:30 TO 4:30 (MEETING PERIODICALLY)

DEAN GREG ANDERSON

753-9604

[ganderson@niu.edu](mailto:ganderson@niu.edu)

Office Hours – by appointment

## **Course Description:**

During your three years in law school you will learn a lot about how to “think like a lawyer,” which is a central component of the law school experience. There are, however, many other competencies that are important to legal employers and that are an important part of your professional development. Other competencies that legal employers consider when hiring new attorneys include integrity, honesty, trustworthiness, initiative, strong work ethic, good listening skills, stress management, project management skills, cultural competency, and responsiveness to feedback, to name a few. Through a variety of speakers and panels, this class will introduce you to some of these professional competencies that effective lawyers must possess beyond their technical legal skills. During this course you will also start to draft a plan for using your three years in law school to develop the different competencies that you will need to effectively serve clients and to obtain meaningful employment with your law degree.

## **Attendance:**

The ABA requires regular and punctual attendance. The NIU College of Law Student Handbook states that sanctions may be imposed if a student misses 20% or more of classes during the semester. Should a student miss more than 20% of the classes during the semester, a reduction in the student’s grade will be imposed. Attendance will be taken at each class session.

## **Grading:**

This course is graded Pass/Fail. You must comply with the attendance policy and complete all required assignments to receive a grade of Pass.

## **Notice on Academic Honesty:**

You are presumed to know and understand all of the law school’s policies and procedures. Pay particular attention to the following passages from the NIU College of Law Student Handbook, “Academic Regulation and Policies”: It is professional misconduct for a member of the law school to (1) engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; or (2) engage in conduct

that is proscribed by law and that reflects adversely on the member's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness to practice law in other respects.

If you do not understand what conduct constitutes plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or other academic or professional misconduct, please come speak with me for clarification. Violations of these requirements that come to my attention will be referred to an Associate Dean and may result in disciplinary charges initiated against the offending student. Violations may also have ramifications for the Character and Fitness assessment that you will undergo for admission to the bar. If you have any questions about any of these policies, do not hesitate to speak with me.

#### **Accessibility Statement:**

NIU is committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center. Any student requiring an academic accommodation due to a disability should let an Associate Dean know as soon as possible.

Students who need academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center if they have not done so already. The Disability Resource Center is located in Suite 180 of the Campus Life Building and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or [drc@niu.edu](mailto:drc@niu.edu).

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

The following are the educational objectives we hope our students obtain through their externship experience during the course of a semester:

1. An introduction to some of layers' professional and ethical responsibilities;
2. An introduction to competencies that are important to legal employers;
3. Guidance on how to start your own professional development plan.

#### **Class Schedule:**

**The class does not meet every week and not all lectures/presenters have been finalized at the beginning of the semester. However, students are to keep the time frame clear of scheduling conflicts during the semester.**

##### **Week One – Thursday, August 24, 2023**

Topic – Orientation to COPD Office/Resumes

Speaker – Dean Greg Anderson

**Live Presentation – Capital Room (HSC)**

##### **Week Two – Thursday, August 31, 2023**

Topic – Welcome to the Legal Profession

Speaker – Shawn Rory Weiler – President, Illinois State Bar Association

**Live Presentation – Capital Room (HSC)**

Dean's Picnic to follow

**Week Three – Thursday, September 7, 2023**      Live Presentation – Capital Room (HSC)

Topic – Networking/Mentoring Programs

Speaker – Dean Anderson and Faculty 1L Mentoring Team

**Week Four – Thursday, September 14, 2023**      Live Presentation – Capital Room (HSC)

Topic – Credit & Debt Management for Bar Admission

Speaker – Natalie Daniels – AccessLex Institute

**Week Five – Thursday, September 21, 2023**      ZOOM Presentation

Topic – Law School Success: Starting Your Law Career Now (and Virtually)

Speaker – Mark Palmer, Chief Counsel

Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism

**Week Six – Thursday, September 28, 2023**

No Class – School Events

**Week Seven – Thursday, October 5, 2023**

TBA

**Week Eight – Thursday, October 12, 2023**

No Class – Mid-term Exams

**Week Nine – Thursday, October 19, 2023**

No Class – Co-Curricular Activities Week

**Week Ten – Thursday, October 26, 2023**

No class – Dean Anderson out of office

**Week Eleven – Thursday, November 2, 2023**

Topic – Summer Program – Agen Meeting

**Week Twelve – Thursday, November 9, 2023**

Topic – Preparing for Final Exams

Speakers – Panel of ASP Tutors

**Week Thirteen – Thursday, November 16, 2023**

Topic – ISBA Rural Practice Initiative

Speaker – ISBA Panel

**Week Fourteen – Thursday, November 23, 2023**

No Class – Thanksgiving Recess

**Week Fourteen – Thursday, November 30, 2023**

No Class – Dean Anderson out of office

# COURSE SYLLABUS

LAW 516 – INTRO TO LEGAL PROFESSIONALISM II

SPRING SEMESTER 2024

THURSDAYS, 3:30 TO 5:00 (MEETING PERIODICALLY)

GREG ANDERSON

753-9604

[ganderson@niu.edu](mailto:ganderson@niu.edu)

Office Hours – by appointment

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**Week One – Thursday, January 18, 2024**

Topic – Substance Abuse/Stress Management “Building Resilience”

Speaker – Joe Scally, MA, JD – Lawyer Assistance Program

**Week Two – Thursday, January 25, 2024**

“How to get a Graduate Assistantship”

Speakers – various 3Ls

**Week Three – Thursday, February 1, 2024**

No Class – Time will be used by the Faculty Mentors

**Week Four – Thursday, February 8, 2024**

Topic: Networking Tips from Kane County Bar Association and Reception

Speaker – KCBA Panel and Dean Anderson

**Week Five – Thursday, February 15, 2024**

Topic: Judicial Internship/Externship/Clerkships

Speaker – Panel of Faculty/Alumni/Guests2

**Week Six – Thursday, February 22, 2024**

Speakers – Judges of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Circuit NOT CONFIRMED

**Week Seven – Thursday, February 29, 2024**

Topic – 10 Ways to Ruin an Interview

Speaker – Rich Lenkov

**Week Eight – Thursday, March 7, 2024**

Topic – Diversity Equity & Inclusion

Speaker – Dr. Clint-Michael Renau, NIU Executive Director Equality & Inclusion

**Week Nine – March 14, 2024**

Spring Break – No Class

**Week Ten – March 21, 2024**

Illinois Supreme Court Hearing

**Week Eleven – March 28, 2024**

Topic – PILI Expungement Clinic

Speaker – 23<sup>rd</sup> Circuit/PILI

**Week Twelve – April 4, 2024**

Topic – Surviving Your First Summer

Speakers – various 2Ls and 3Ls

**Week Thirteen – April 11, 2024**

Topic – MUS Army Court of Appeals Hearing – at College of Law

Speakers - TBA

**Week Fourteen – April 18, 2024**

Topic – Social Media - LinkedIn

Speakers – Alivia Hatten